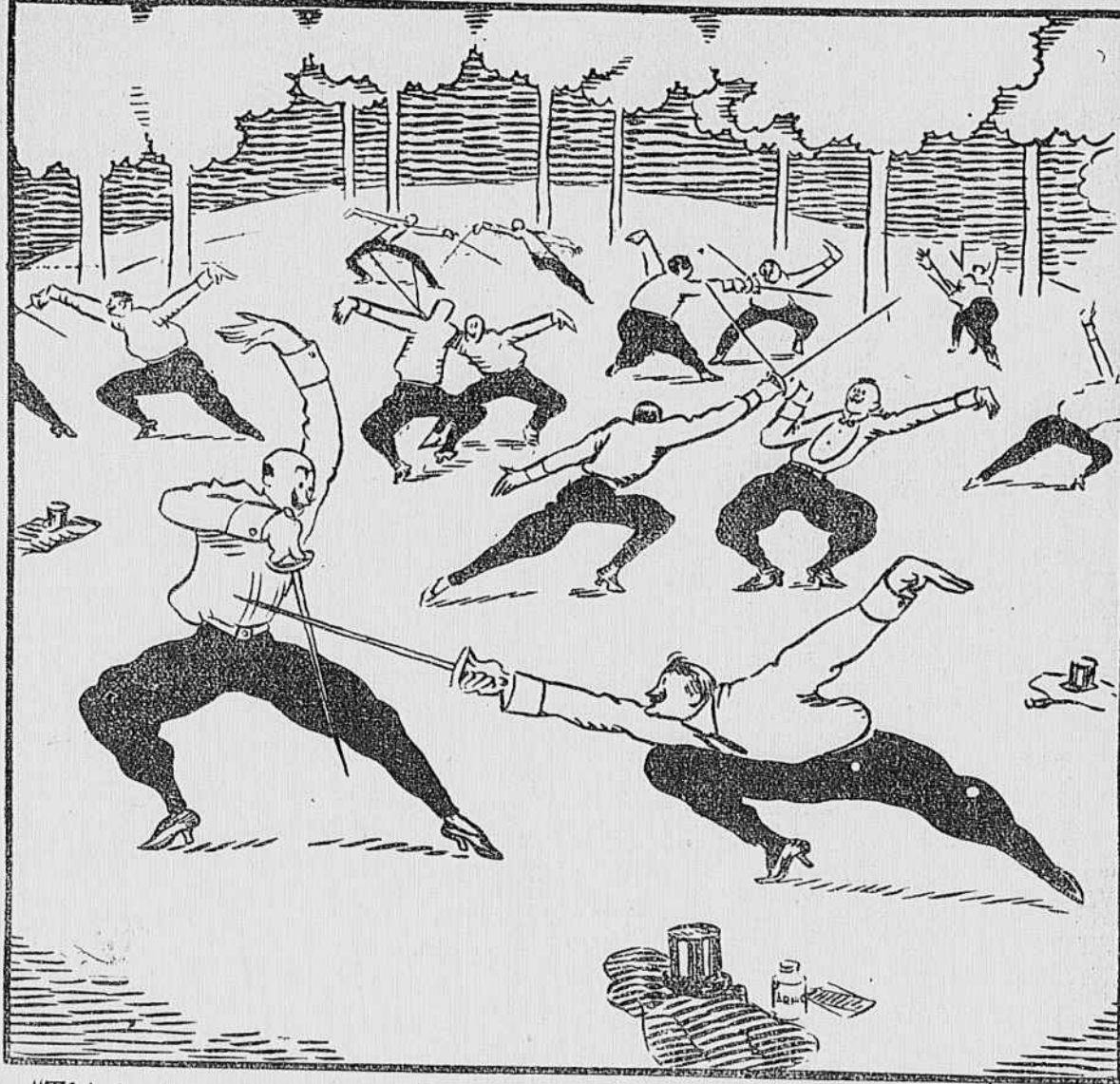


# MR. DOOLEY ON ENGLISH POLITICS

BY FINLEY PETER DUNNE



"Th' dep'ties are out on th' bicycle coorse pokin' away at each other with little soords."



"Speed, catiff, an' proclaim me rile will to me realm or yere head shall be forfeit," says th' king."

"WELL, sir," said Mr. Dooley, "if I knew a way to go about it I'd apologize to th' British parlymint. I wud so. I've done it an' injustice. I always thought it as a place where English gentlemen went to sleep off their dinners an' where there'd be no more iv an openin' fr a statesman with a punch thin at a meetin' iv th' directors iv the Home fr Decayed Gintlewomen. In other countries parlyminthry govtment was carried on in a way to me likin'. In France whin th' ripsintatives iv that fine people get together there's always a rite, members whack each other with parasols, th' speaker rings a bell an' jumps through a window, an' th' nex' mornin' all th' dep'ties havin' sint their dyin' wurruds to th' newspapers, wrote their wills, made arrangements with th' under-taker fr a fun'ral iv th' scond class, an' laid in a supply iv arnica an' stickin' plaster, are out on th' bicycle coorse pokin' away at each other with little soords an' horribly mutilatin' th' risbands iv their doolin' shirts. In Austree 'tis th' custom to open th' proceedin's with a hard right 'fim th' leader iv th' deep center on th' jaw iv th' leader iv th' extrême left. Th' Eytalyan solon, as Hogan calls thim, puts on a woven steel vest before he offers a resolution, while in our own spindid gatherin' iv intellection joyns down in Pennsylvania avnoo how often ar-re th' grave deliberations marred an' made intrustin' by a disgraceful scene whin some pathrite fr'm th' sunny southland tries to catch th' eye iv the speaker or th' ear iv th' house with th' stationery provided be a gin'rous govtment."

"Me talents as a debator wud be useful in anny iv these here assemblies, Hinnessy, fr I'm as good a shot as th' next man with an ink bottle, an' I've so long served as an umpire fr earnest thruck drivers that I've picked up what ye might call a good workin' knowledge iv parlyminthry language. But fr'm what I heard about th' English parlymint I figured out that it was no place fr me. I'd pick up the pa-per and read: 'Balfour gives Askith th' lie. Premier's savage retort.' But whin I'd square meself away comintedly fr an intellection threat I'd read that Mither Balfour havin' been nudged by a colleague, slowly unbraided his legs, grajooly rose to his feet, smoothed his hair, curled his mustache, put on his eveglass, an' in a voice rendered almost inaudible by passion said that much as it pained him to speak at anny time, he was more pained thim he cud say he havin' to speak in criticism, if he cud put it so fr lack iv a milder wurrud, iv th' right hon'rab'le gentlemen whose services in behalf iv th' empire he wud be th' last to undherestimate, but he (Mr. Balfour) felt that th' crisis in th' affairs iv th' nation was such as to compel plain an' aven brutal frankness, little as he relished it, an' he must declare, if it was with his dyin' breath, that th' hon'rab'le gentleman was, he cud think of no other wurrud, incorrectly informed. [Loud opposition cries iv 'Plucky wurruds, be gad, and hoarse govtment murmurs iv indignation.]"

"Afther th' usual recess fr tea th' prime ministher leaped to his feet an' with his face convulsed be emotion replied that he was hurt to th' heart be th' attack iv th' right hon'rab'le gin-

leman who, much as he might differ with him on matters iv impeccial policy, he (th' prime ministher) regarded him (th' right hon'rab'le gentleman) highly as a man an' apprecyated his splindid services to th' impire which he hoped wud meet their just recognition in a place in Westminster Abbey. Still, this was no time to place personalities before principles or th' tenderness iv frindship before th' nicissities iv Britain, an' at th' risk iv shockin' his hearers he wud say with shame an' stern sorrow an' only because th' fate iv th' impire was thremblin' in th' balance an' in another moment if he hesitated all wud be lost, he wud say that th' right hon'rab'le gentleman—"

"Th' Speaker (indignantly)—Is th' right hon'rab'le gentleman aware that it is now two minyits past tea time? Th' muffins ar-re burnin'. I can smell thim. [Cries of 'Privilege!']"

"Th' Prime Ministher (in great distress)—I apologize to th' house. I hope it is not too late to repair th' blunder. I move th' usual recess be prolonged to an hour. [Cheers.]"

"On th' resumption iv the sittin' th' prime ministher concluded his phillipic with great bitterness."

"Th' prime ministher—is onjudiciously advised. [Confusion. Government cheers an' cries iv: 'Well played, sir!'] Opposition cries iv: 'Oh, I say, an' 'Come, come!']"

"Well, thinks I, if that's th' British parlymint no wonder th' English ar-re a law abidin' people, fr where wud th' excitement be in breakin' laws crasyed be such a lot iv seamstresses? What were th' Irish mimbers doin' in such an assembly? How did they amuse thimselves? Where did they get exercise to keep thim in condition? An' I was wrong all th' time. Why, sir, th' British parlymint, far fr'm being a place where an old gentleman cud go who had took up needlework or stringin' buttons, is as ruffanly a place as any young fellow iv high spirits wud want to spend his Saturdah nights in. In that there misrepresinted body there ar-re statesmen that wud shine in anny compny no matter how low, an' ijacated men that have a vocabulary that wud make th' chairman iv th' strike conity iv th' scow thrimmers' union wish his father had sint him to Oxford. I was readin' th' pa-per th' other day an' I'd read all th' criminal news, fr'm the burglary in Bloo Island avnoo to th' illiction iv a sinitor from Illinye, an' all th' humorous section about th' breakin' up iv th' Tobacco compny, an' th' athaletic news iv harmony in the Dimmyerat party, an' th' gr-rear wurrud iv charity that th' steel compny has been carryin' on iv desthroyin' its rivals to save thim fr'm a worse fate, an' th' long distance endurance talk iv me friend George W. Perkins, an' th' latest scandals fr'm th' narredge in high life to th' remarks about it fr'm th' pulpit—in fact, Hinnessy, I read ivrythin' in th' pa-per but an account iv a vilit scene in th' house iv commons, an' thim, there bein' nawthin' else to do, I let me eye stray on that, too, an' he hives, if I'd known, 'twas the best thing in th' pa-per. Th' truth, long suppressed be our venial press, was out at last. Finer readin' I niver struck. I clipped th' piece out iv th' pa-per and

here it is. Th' corryspndint has on'y been in England a week, so ye'll have to get over his prejudice again the arrystocracy."

"It was apparent," says he, "whin th' house met that th' ripsintatives iv that anycant arrystocracy that had made England what it is were in no mood to be thrilled with. Faces sildom seen within th' precincts iv Saint Stephens assimiled fr'm far and near, fine young pathricyan faces tanned be healthy outdoor life at th' races. Only their country's need cud call these high mettled youths fr'm th' chase or th' temples iv the Goddess iv Chance, but th' feelin' that their anycant prerogitive must be defendid again th' encroachmints iv th' mob aroused in thim th' spirit which stirred their ancistors at Aggyn-court an' th' siege iv Jerusalem, an' many a refined voice that but th' night before p'raps had been softly implorin' Lady Vere de Vere to kindly pass th' butter in some gilded dinin' room iv Mayfair was now heerd frantically demandin' fr'm a policeman th' way to th' house iv commons. Among th' throng iv impetchuse ripsintatives iv Britain's proud orders ye'er corryspndint noted th' hon'rab'le Cecil Raleigh Herbert Henry Juggins-Potts, who father, once well known as Ezra Potts, th' cillybrated mannyfacther iv axle grease, now sits in th' house iv lords as Lord Montmorency iv Hammersmith; th' Hon'rab'le Lionel Rooke, author iv th' two spade declaration at auction; th' Hon'rab'le Evelyn St. John Stiggins, on'y son an' heir iv Lord Putney an' Chipping Norton; Capt. th' Hon'rab'le Ruthven Jinks, whose filly ran third in th' Oaks; Viscount Putner, who invinted th' system fr batin' roulette at Monty Carlo, an' many others that th' policeman who stuid in front iv ye'er corryspndint said he had niver run across on his beat. Whin th' prime ministher enthered th' house he faced a solid phalanx that personified th' just feelin' iv th' upper classes again his threashon'ble attacks on th' estates iv th' realm, an' whin he rose to speak their indignation was voiced in a well bred howl that cud be heerd a block away. There was something very thrillin' to th' plain Americans in th' gallery in th' sight iv these arrystocratick lymints flamin' with haughty anger an' in th' sight iv young pathricyans shakin' their fists at Askith an' cryin' out in their nicely moddylated voices: 'Traiter!' 'Scum iv th' earth!' 'Thim with a brick!' 'Set down!' 'Throw him out!' 'Shut up ye're mouth!' 'Ye kilt th' king, ye know ye did!'"

"Th' Hon'rab'le Cecil Juggins-Potts made his maiden speech be whistlin' on two fingers. Young Stiggins, who has a gr-rear reputation in Fash'nable circles as a parlor entertainer, give an imitation iv a dog barkin', while Capt. Rooke crowed like a cock. It was in vain that Askith tried to stem th' torrent iv arrystocratick rage. In th' end he had to lave th' buildin' an' was followed home be a throng iv th' flowers iv British chivalry cryin': 'Yah.' Th' scene was van iv th' most dramatic iver witnessed in English pollyticks. Among those who looked down on it fr'm th' stranger's gallery was Caleb Wiggins, th' famous chum mannyfacther iv Baraboo, whose daughter is Countess iv Upper Tooting. 'As an Anglo-Saxon,' said Mr. Wiggins, 'I was greatly thrilled be th' demonstration. All over

th' wurrld there is a concerted movement again our ordher an' it must be resisted.' Mr. Wiggins reported a slight fallin' off in the churn business, but looked for an improvement this fall."

"What's it all about?" asked Mr. Hennessy.

"I didn't know meself till I asked Hogan," said Mr. Dooley. "He made it perfectly plain. Says he: 'Well, to begin with, he says, 'England has a constitution, but nobody iver took th' trouble to write it down, so nobody knows what is at anny minyit an' anything that happens is libe to change it fr'm day to day. In our more blessed country,' he says, 'we have a written constitution an' anny schoolboy can read it an' undherstand it if he has been admitted to th' bar an' follows th' decisions iv th' Supreme court. This here venerable docymint was wrote out be th' fathers iv th' republic whin th' republic was in its infancy, an' its remedies ar-re good fr teething, rash, mumps, an' prickly heat, but iv course ye can't find anything in it fr th' gout, nervous prostration, an' th' other ailments iv machure manhood, so whin th' republic has a pain in its stomach th' Supreme court says: 'At gr-rear expense we have secured a copy iv th' constitution fr'm a collector iv rare docymints an' we find casther-ile wud've been employed by th' foundhers iv th' nation. But this wud be onsuted to th' age iv th' patient an' wud remove th' cause iv th' disease which is part iv th' nature iv republics. We have no doubt that if th' old La-ads that wrote this docymint had lived to our day they wud advise a mustard plaster. Anyhow that's what we intend to slam on. Thim th' patient won't know which is hurtin' him an' will be happy, or ought to be. Holmes J., McKenna J., Hughes J., an' th' Taft judges whose names I've forgot concurrin'."

"But," says Hogan, "in England they make up th' constitution as they go along. Undher it th' king is th' supreme ruler. Ye mustn't fr'get that. All power comes fr'm th' throne. But th' king don't git a cint fr supreme rulin' onless he supremely rules th' way th' house iv commons wants him to. As soon as th' king reads th' eliction returns an' finds out who is th' boss iv th' house iv commons he says to himself: 'There's a new face in the cashier's window. It is a pleasant face, a kind face. It is the face iv a man that I wud like to have fr me adviser. I will illivate this humble stranger to an office iv gr-rear dignity. I will make him me prime ministher.' Th' relations iv the prime ministher an' th' king ar-re pecooyer. Th' king commands th' prime ministher absolutely, on'y he mustn't command him to do anything that th' prime ministher hasn't asked him to command him to do. Th' prime ministher approaches th' throne on his knees. 'Sirrah,' says th' king, pushin' him gently away with his foot, 'what dy'e want?' 'I await ye're majesty's commands,' says th' prime ministher. 'Get out,' says th' king. 'I won't,' says the prime ministher. 'Well, thim,' says th' king, 'I haven't anny other commands fr ye.' 'Ye're majesty don't know what ye ar-re talkin' about. I have a list iv commands here that ye'd better be quick about makin' me

obey or I can't hold th' boys anny longer," says he, haulin' a pa-aper out iv his coat tail pocket. "Ye needn't read thim to me," says th' king in an awful voice. "Speed, catiff, an' proclaim me rile will to me realm or ye're head shall be forfeit," says he. An' th' prime ministher has to obey whether he wants to or not."

"Thim," says Hogan, "there ar-re th' lords. Whin they don't stand in with th' prime ministher they stand between him an' th' constitution. They're like our saint. In ivery country like England an' ours which is ruled entirely be th' people, it is nicissary to have a body iv intelligent an' conservative men to see that they don't entirely rule th' country. Dye see th' pint? Th' whole idee iv a republic is that the people should have what they think is good fr thim. But there are more thoughtful pathrites who know that if they want it very much it can't be good fr thim, so they stop it. Ye start a republic be askin' th' people what they want, but ye preserve it be not lettin' thim have it. So whin Askith wanted wan thing or another th' house of lords wudden't give it to him. An' what does he do? He goes up to th' king an' says he: 'Ye're majesty, command me.' 'What to do?' says th' king. 'To make a bunch iv lords,' says th' prime ministher. 'There ar-re enough now fr th' business they're doin',' says th' king. 'How many iv these pathricyans dy'e want?' says th' king. 'I think about four or five hundred,' says th' prime ministher. 'I don't know how many I'll need. Maybe I won't need anny.' 'Go as far as ye like,' says th' king. So wan day Askith comes out an' says he: 'Th' house iv lords is one iv th' grandest institutions. But th' king thinks it needs freshenin' up. Unless certain things happen whin his majesty has told me about, 'tis his majesty's intention to create so many peers that th' house iv lords will have to meet in th' baseball park. These hereditary noblemen will be chose fr'm th' flower iv our population, an' on'y men iv th' purest Norman blood will be selected.' 'An' how ar-re ye goin' to know they ar-re iv Norman blood?' says somewan. 'Be findin' out how they'll vote,' says Askith."

"Well," says Hogan, "th' house iv lords puts up a furrus fight. Led be wan iv th' old nobility who was a lawyer be proffesson, but his family were brewers, they resolved to die in th' last ditch, which they did at a banquet. They made up their minds to sacrifice their ancient chamber rather than give way. Unbending to th' last, these haughty arrystocrats contested ivry inch iv th' way, making untold sacrifices fr their cause. And what did they do? says he. 'They refrained fr'm votin'! It was a magnificent spectacle, these proud spirits bringin' back th' days iv chivalry be duckin' th' roll call. At th' last minyit a message came fr'm Whitelaw Reid protestin' in th' name iv American investors in English titles again watherin' th' house iv lords an' depreccatin' their securities. So Askith won,' says Hogan."

"Dye think they'll iver abolish th' house iv lords?" asked Mr. Hennessy.

"Not without a war with this country," said Mr. Dooley. "We'd have to protect our investments."